

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Kauko PALO et al

Serial No.: New

Filing Date: June 29, 2001

For: A METHOD OF CHARACTERIZING FLUORESCENT MOLECULES OR  
OTHER PARTICLES USING GENERATING FUNCTIONS#5/A  
17 Jan 02  
R. TalbotPRELIMINARY AMENDMENTAssistant Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to initial examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 3, 7-14 and 17-20 as follows:

A1  
3. (Amended) A method according to claim 1 wherein in step b) numbers of photon counts  $\{n_i\}$  subject to determination of a distribution  $\hat{P}(n)$  are derived from numbers of photon counts in primary time intervals  $\{N_j\}$  by summing up numbers of photon counts from primary time intervals according to a predetermined rule.

A2  
7. (Amended) A method according to claim 3 wherein in step b) a set of distributions  $\hat{P}(n)$  is determined according to a set of different rules, said set of distributions being fitted jointly in step c).